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WSAC

28 APR 75
(DCI's copy)

28 April 1975

DCI BRIEFING FOR
28 APRIL WSAG MEETING

VIETNAM

I. Fighting is now reaching the outskirts of Saigon
itself.

A. ^{At least} Three A-37 aircraft have attacked ^{VNAF operations at} Tan Son

Nhut airport. The evidence, though not con-
clusive, suggests ^{contrary to some early reports, that} they are captured aircraft

flown by North Vietnamese ^{or South Vietnamese pilots}
^{proving their revolutionary loyalty.}

1. There are no reports as yet of major

disorder within the capital.

B. ^{about 10} Communist sappers temporarily blocked the
main road between Saigon and Bien Hoa by
attacking a key bridge only a few miles
east of the city.

1. Airborne troops were sent to the area
and quickly cleared the bridge.

C.

[redacted]
the NVA 7th Division has the mission

of seizing the Saigon radio station. [redacted]

[redacted] announcers are to go in with

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the troops, [REDACTED]

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II. On Saigon's outer defenses, North Vietnamese troops, supported by tanks and artillery, also conducted heavy attacks over the weekend, and the fighting is continuing today.

A. East of the capital, Communist forces have already captured all of Phuoc Tuy Province, as well as large parts of Bien Hoa Province. They are now pressuring Bien Hoa, Long Binh, and Vung Tau.

1. The South Vietnamese 18th Division, which was defending Bien Hoa and its nearby airbase, is in disarray. The headquarters of Military Region 3 is retreating down Route 1 toward Saigon.

a. Some looting is taking place in Bien Hoa.

b. Bien Hoa and its airbase should fall in a few hours if the North Vietnamese press the attack.

2. South Vietnamese Marines are holding Long Binh, but they are greatly outnumbered and

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resistance there will probably soon come to an end.

3. Government troops guarding the approach to Vung Tau have destroyed a key bridge on the only road leading to the city. This has stopped the Communist tank column, but the North Vietnamese are within effective artillery range of the city and its harbor.

4. [] the North Vietnamese are moving artillery into place in the Nhon Trach area, only 10 miles east of Saigon.

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- a. [] the Communists plan to shell Tan Son Nhut airbase from these emplacements.

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- B. West of Saigon, the North Vietnamese cut Route 4 in the northern delta and are now attacking Tan An, the capital of Long An Province. Farther north, the Communists launched heavy attacks in eastern Hau Nghia Province and against Tay Ninh City.

1. Tay Ninh and Tan An will fall soon to the Communists.

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III. On the political front, General "Big" Minh assumed the presidency today. In his brief speech, Minh called for an immediate cease-fire, resumption of negotiations, and implementation of the Paris Agreement. We have one press report that the Viet Cong immediately rejected Minh's call for a cease-fire. This is in line with Hanoi's long standing position that a cease-fire is unacceptable in advance of a ^{full} settlement.

A. The PRG spokesman in Saigon said yesterday that the Communists insisted on three basic conditions for a negotiated solution:

- The removal of Thieu and his associates.
- The departure of all US "agents."
- The "elimination" of the South Vietnamese "war machine."

B. The first two of these conditions are familiar, but the third is new. It suggests that Hanoi will demand that Minh order not only an end to all resistance, but also a prompt disbanding of the South Vietnamese armed forces.

IV. In sum, the North Vietnamese have resumed military pressure on Saigon. Minh's dilemma is ~~how to~~ ^{whether he can}

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~~proceed in arranging~~^e a capitulation ~~where the~~^{in which} non-Communists have some role in a new government before the North Vietnamese bring about a total collapse of the Saigon government. There appears to be little time left to reach such a denouement -- probably ~~between~~^{to} one ~~and~~ three days.

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